

**Subject:** Submission

Dear Mr McCann,

I wish to make a submission that this year the Tribunal reduces the salaries of Members of Parliament.

There are three reasons for this submission:

1. The current state of the Victorian Budget.
2. The wages sacrifice that the Victorian Government is requiring of public sector employees to address the above.
3. To play a small part in addressing growing inequality in this country.

The Victorian Budget is under strain following the unprecedented costs of COVID and the impact that rising interest rates has had on the State's debt.

These budgetary constrictions were cited by the State Government when they formed their wages policy - restricting annual wage increases to 3% per annum. In the current inflationary environment this, and the previous wages policy, means that public sector workers' real wages are going backwards. While the government cites so-called 'cost of living' bonuses, these are one-off payments that do not increase actual ongoing wages - leaving workers worse off long-term. These bonuses also pale in comparison to the real wage increases provided to Members of Parliament and Executives, as illustrated below.

	Median pay*	2020	Avg \$↑	2021	Avg \$↑	2022	Avg \$↑	2023	Avg \$↑
<b>Inflation</b>		0.90%		3.50%		7.80%		4.10%	
<b>VPS Base Wage</b>	\$92,292	2.75%	\$2,538	1.50%	\$1,384	1.25%	\$1,154	2.50%	\$2,307
<b>Executives</b>	\$252,987	3.30%	\$8,349	2.50%	\$6,325	3.60%	\$9,108	4%	\$10,119
<b>Politicians</b>	\$198,839	0%	\$0	2.50%	\$4,971	2.75%	\$5,468	3.50%	\$6,959

These numbers are by no means exact, but they do illustrate the pattern of growing disparity between ordinary public sector worker wages and those Members of Parliament and Executives above them. This pattern is part of a broader creep of inequality that we have seen across the country - with the Australia Institute reporting that the bottom 90% of Australians receive just 7% of economic growth per person since 2009, with the top 10% of income earners reaping 93% of the benefits. In 2017 CEOs in Australia earned 78 times as much as the average income - with this gap increasing year on year.

Given that public sector workers are again being asked to sacrifice their real wages in the name of budgetary responsibilities, I ask that the Tribunal reduce the salaries of Members of Parliament and Executives to do the same and to reduce the growing inequality between them and the workers that keep this state running.

Thank you for considering my submission,  
Angus Williamson